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RESEARCH FUNCTIONS OF GERMAN MILITARY DOCUMENT SECTION

1. Mission

The mission of the German Military Document Section is as follows:

- a. Organize, maintain and keep accessible an active archive of captured German military documents.
- b. Receive and process incoming document shipments.
- c. Screen for intelligence all captured German documents received, and prepare and disseminate an intelligence index listing items of intelligence interest.
- d. Dispose of non-military records by lending them on a permanent basis to governmental agencies of primary interest.
- e. Make available to the appropriate technical services of the War Department documents of a technical nature.

2. Research Functions

To execute and implement the above mission, the following research activities are conducted by GMDSS:

- a. Screens for intelligence and determines priority for setting up in the archival sub-section document shipments which:

- (1) Contain research material for use in special projects conducted by Special Document Section.
- (2) Contain material to be intelligence indexed.

- b. Advises the archival sub-section in the disposition of captured records which:

- (1) Are of no military value and are to be deposited on permanent loan with other governmental agencies (Library of Congress, National Archives, State Department, Department of Commerce, etc.)
- (2) Are of primary technical value and are to be exploited by the technical services of the War Department.

(The above activities include the appropriate disposition of phonograph records, books, motion picture films, still pictures, slides, etc.)

- c. Conducts research on captured German documents in order to produce a card index of items of intelligence value. The exploitation sub-section also prepares the cards for the "offset" process and arranges them for dissemination to the following agencies:

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(1) Intelligence Documents File Branch, Intelligence Division, WDGS.

(2) Air Information Division, A-2, USAAF.

(3) Central Intelligence Group

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(4)

(5)

(6)

(7) Reading Panel, Intelligence Division, WDGS (12 sets for dissemination within Intelligence Division and Technical Services.)

d. Call documents of particular interest to the attention of permanent liaison groups with OMDS; namely:

(1) Historical Division, U.S. Army

(2) FBI

(3) War Crimes Commission

e. Determines the security classification of captured German documents as orally directed by the Chief, Information Control Branch, Security Group, Intelligence Division, WDGS. This activity includes upgrading and downgrading of captured German documents. In this connection, overall classification of the document collection is "confidential."

f. Conducts searches of the collection for availability of documents on broad subject requests as opposed to requests for specific documents.

g. It is to be noted that OMDS does not translate documents for using agencies, but lends the original captured documents (or microfilms) for exploitation.

3. Completed Work in OMDS

a. Aside from the archival phase which includes setting up the collection in usable order, the intelligence index (see par. 2c) is completed in part as follows:

(1) 52,200 folders of captured documents have been examined and indexed for the intelligence contained therein.

(2) 6,300 different items of intelligence value have been carded and the information disseminated.

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b. Approximately five (5) percent of a collection of 700 reels of microfilms have been reviewed and properly intelligence indexed.

4. Work Remaining

a. 21,000 folders of unreviewed captured documents remain to be examined and properly indexed in the manner outlined in par. 2c.

b. Additional shipments arrive from the theater at an average rate of ten (10) to fifteen (15) tons per month. These, as well as several major collections in the warehouse, remain to be screened - approximately 800 packing cases of documents.

c. Of the collection of approximately 700 reels of microfilms of documents photographed elsewhere, fifty (50) percent remain to be viewed to determine subject matter and ninety-five (95) percent require examination for the purpose of the intelligence index.

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FUNCTIONS OF SPECIAL DOCUMENT SECTION

1. Mission

The mission of the Special Document Section is as follows:

- a. Extract from captured documents factual information pertaining to the USSR.
- b. Prepare project studies under the guidance of the Chief, Eurasian Branch, Intelligence Group, Intelligence Division, WDGS, and prepare additional studies initiated by Special Document Section as approved by the Chief, Intelligence Group.
- c. Prepare full translations of selected captured German and Russian documents.
- d. Disseminate completed projects and translations through the Chief, Exploitation Branch, Intelligence Group, Intelligence Division, WDGS.

2. Intelligence Functions

a. In accomplishing the above mission, activities of Special Document Section were initially centered around five (5) major research projects based on captured documents pertaining to the USSR; namely:

- (1) Atomic Energy and Allied Industries
- (2) Machine Tool Industry in the USSR
- (3) Soviet Railway Transport
- (4) Naval and Maritime Shipbuilding in the USSR
- (5) Communications in the USSR (telephone, telegraph, cable, radio, mail, television, radar, courier services).

b. In addition, the Intelligence Division, WDGS directed the establishment of an "Industrial Card File Project." The preparation of this file of Soviet industrial plants is based on captured documents available in the German Military Document Section, Washington Document Center and other document agencies. This file contains in fragmentary form all information available on Soviet industrial installations including personnel, working methods, equipment, output, type of production, etc. When the card file is completed, competent analysts will examine the information plant by plant and, after evaluating and collating it, will produce a current basic plant list which will be adaptable for use on International Business Machines.

c. In conjunction with the project outlined in paragraph 2b above, a newspaper evaluation sub-section has been established for the purpose of extracting, translating and disseminating pertinent data from Russian periodicals

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and newspapers.

d. The production of a handbook on the USSR was initiated in January 1947. This project is based on top-level captured German documents as an overall picture of Russian industry and has been given an arbitrary deadline of 1 May 1947.

3. Status of SDS Projects

a. Atomic Energy: During October 1946 it was found that all presently available information pertaining to atomic energy had been exhausted and the intelligence derived properly disseminated.

b. Machine Tools: Information collected on this subject matter is being included in the Industrial Card File Project (see par. 3f).

c. Railway Capacities: This project will provide detailed information on Russian railway lines, their capacity, technical data, etc. This includes a general survey of waterways in Russia. The project is long-range and incomplete.

d. Shipbuilding: At the time of the establishment of the Industrial Card File Project (see par 2 b) all available information on shipbuilding in the USSR had been exploited. All future information will be included in the card file.

e. Telecommunications: In December 1946 it became apparent that the documents on hand pertaining to telecommunications had been exploited fully. The telecommunications project was then merged with the railroad study (see par. 3 c.)

f. Industrial Card File Project: Data utilized for this project are based on pre-war Russian material, captured German documents and current Russian newspapers and periodicals. All available top-level captured German documents have been exploited and work has begun on low-level German documents and Russian material. This project is perpetuating and long-range.

g. Newspaper Evaluation: Press reading will continue indefinitely in conjunction with activities pertaining to the Industrial Card File Project (see par 3f).

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